

Overview of Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Presented by: Shana Harbour Ronald Reagen International Trade Center November 8, 2000

Agenda

- Definition of an EMS
- Basic EMS Elements
- The Complete System

Definition of an EMS

- An EMS is an organizational approach to environmental management.
- The goal of incorporating environmental considerations into day-to-day operations.
- An EMS provides a structured framework specifically designed to achieve continual environmental improvement.

A Viable EMS

To succeed an EMS should be:

- Cost effective,
- •Economically viable,
- •In harmony with trade regulations,
- Based on systems and performance,
- Practical, usable and useful, and
- •Focused on continual improvement

General Principles

- •An EMS serves the organization and its mission, not the reverse
- •EMS is a process, not an event
- •An EMS is the people & their actions, not the words & aspirations
- •Improvement rests on changing attitudes & behaviors
 - •"Want to, not have to"
- •Start at the top, implement throughout

Major Components of an EMS

Policy

Planning

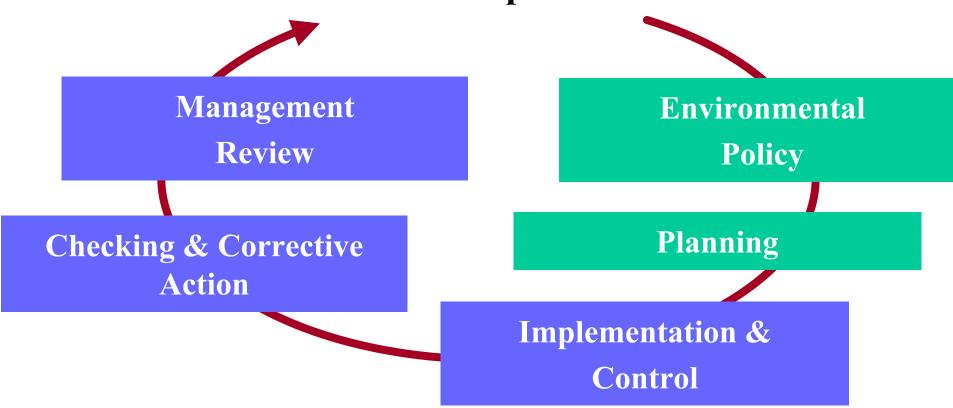
Implementation and Operation

Checking and Corrective Action

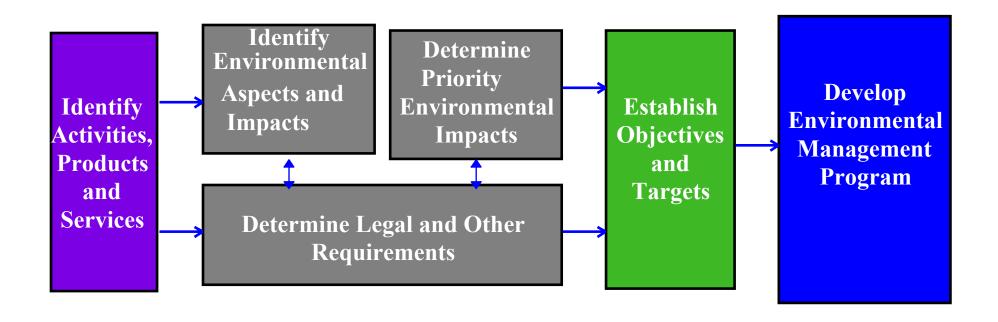
Management Review

Plan Do Check Act

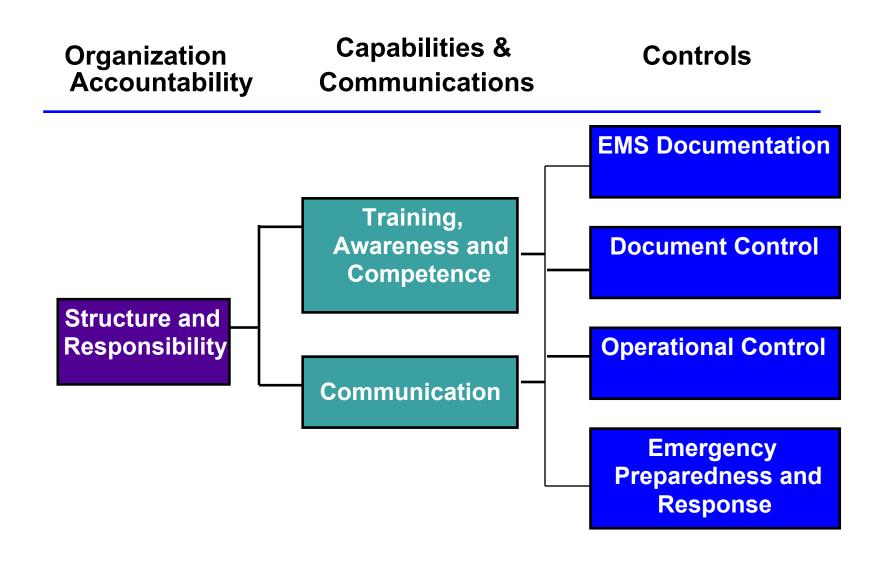
Continual Improvement



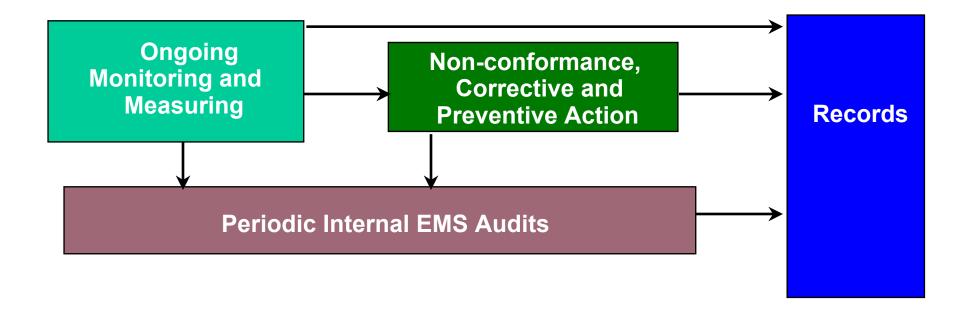
Planning



Implementation



Checking and Corrective Action



Management Review Process

Take account of:

- audit findings
- progress records on objectives changes to facilities
- changes in activities, products or services
- changes in technology
- concerns of interested parties
- other relevant information



To Assess the

- suitability,
- adequacy, and
- effectiveness of the EMS



In order to determine the need for change and improvement to:

- the environmental policy
- the objectives and targets
- other elements of the EMS

Relationship Among Environmental Management System Elements



Conclusions

- An EMS is a formal system for managing the environmental footprint of your company
- Many companies already have several EMS elements in place
- An EMS should serve the needs of the company
- Associations can help their small business members implement an appropriate EMS